

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 009792
ORIGIN ARA-10

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DRAFTED BY ARA/CEN:MJPLATT
APPROVED BY ARA/CEN:MJPLATT
H:EBLACK
ARA:GLISTER

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R 150214Z JAN 77
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMCONSUL BELIZE

UNCLAS STATE 009792

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: CGEN, BH

SUBJECT: CONGRESSIONAL INQUIRY: VALIDITY OF COMMON LAW
MARRIAGE.

1. DEPARTMENT HAS RECEIVED INQUIRY FROM CONGRESSMAN JOHN P.
HAMMERSCHMIDT TRANSMITTING A CONSTITUENT'S REQUEST FOR IN-
FORMATION ON THE VALIDITY OF COMMON LAW MARRIAGES IN
BELIZE. CONSULATE GENERAL IS REQUESTED TO POUCH COPIES OF
RELEVANT STATUTES, BELIZEAN CONSTITUTION AND A LIST OF
LOCAL ATTORNEYS.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

"DEAR CONGRESSMAN HAMMERSCHMIDT:

I REPRESENT A YOUNG LADY IN THE FRANKLIN COUNTY, WHO ON
OR ABOUT JANUARY 1974 COMMENCED A COMMON LAW RELATIONSHIP
IN THE COUNTRY OF BELIZE WHICH WAS FORMERLY A PART OF THE
BRITISH HONDURAS. THIS COMMON LAW RELATIONSHIP, ALTHOUGH
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COMMENCED IN TEXAS, THE PARTIES HONEYMOONED IN BELIZE AND
THE RELATIONSHIP WAS CONTINUED IN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS AND
FRANKLIN COUNTY IN PARTICULAR WHERE THE PARTIES ACQUIRED
80 ACRES OF LAND TAKING TITLE THERETO AS HUSBAND AND WIFE.
MY SPECIFIC PROBLEM IS SECURING A CERTIFIED COPY OF THE

CONSTITUTION AND THE DOMESTIC LAWS OF BELIZE TO DETERMINE

WHETHER OR NOT THAT COUNTRY RECOGNIZES AND/OR PROHIBITS
COMMON LAW MARRIAGES. IT IS MY CONSIDERED OPINION THAT
SUCH IS RECOGNIZED IN BELIZE, HOWEVER, TO HOLD THIS 80
ACRES OF LAND FOR THIS YOUNG LADY AND HER TWO (2) YEAR
OLD DAUGHTER BORN OF THIS COMMON LAW RELATIONSHIP, I AM
PLACED IN A POSITION OF HAVING TO PROVE THAT SUCH RELATION-
SHIP WAS EITHER COMMENCED IN A STATE OR FOREIGN COUNTRY
RECOGNIZING COMMON LAW MARRIAGES.

"CONGRESSMAN HAMMERSCHMIDT, IF YOU CAN DIRECT ME TO THE
PROPER PARTY WHO COULD FURNISH ME WITH A CERTIFIED COPY
OF SUCH CONSTITUTION AND DOMESTIC LAWS OR WHO COULD FURNISH
ME WITH INFORMATION AS TO WHERE INQUIRIES SHOULD BE DIREC-
TED IT WOULD BE GREATLY APPRECIATED."
KISSINGER

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Sent Date: 15-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
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Disposition History: n/a
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